

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-31 (canceled)

32. (Amended) A method for inhibiting the expression of a target gene in a substrate that expresses the targeted gene, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a composition comprising an mRNA-cDNA hybrid prior to contacting said substrate, wherein the mRNA-cDNA hybrid is capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene in said substrate; and

b) contacting said substrate with said composition under conditions such that the expression of said gene in said substrate is inhibited.

33. (canceled)

34. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said substrate expresses said targeted gene *in vivo*.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said targeted gene comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of pathogenic nucleic acids, viral genes, mutated genes, and oncogenes.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid inhibits β -catenin expression.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 32, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid inhibits bcl-2 expression.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said substrate is a prokaryote.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 38, wherein said prokaryote is a virus.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 38, wherein said prokaryote is a bacterial cell.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said substrate is a eukaryote or the cell of said eukaryote.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a vertebrate.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a mouse.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is chimpanzee.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a human being.

46-54 (canceled)

55. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the composition consists of an mRNA-cDNA hybrid capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene.

56. (New) A method for inhibiting the expression of a target gene in a substrate that expresses the targeted gene, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a composition comprising a synthetic mRNA-cDNA hybrid capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene in said substrate; and
- b) contacting said substrate with said composition under conditions such that the expression of said gene in said substrate is inhibited.

57. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein the composition consists of an mRNA-cDNA hybrid capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene.

58. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein said substrate expresses said targeted gene *in vivo*.

59. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein said targeted gene comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of pathogenic nucleic acids, viral genes, mutated genes, and oncogenes.

60. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid inhibits β -catenin expression.

61. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein said substrate is a prokaryote.

62. (New) The method of Claim 61, wherein said prokaryote is a virus.

63. (New) The method of Claim 61, wherein said prokaryote is a bacterial cell.

64. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein said substrate is a eukaryote or the cell of said eukaryote.

65. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a vertebrate.

66. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a mouse.

67. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is chimpanzee.

68. (New) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a human being.